GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2789
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
LEAKAGE OF SECRET DEFENCE INFORMATION
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents come to the notice of the Government regarding leakage of Secret Defence Information by serving/retired Government Officials during the last two years and first half of current year;

(b) whether such incidents are on the increase;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this menace and to weed out such anti-national persons involved in leaking Defence secrets to the enemy;

(d) whether the Government are considering to bring forward any legislation for stringent punishment and attachment of property of persons involved in such incidents as a deterrent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Nineteen such incidents have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e): No, Sir. Appropriate actions have been initiated against all such personnel under the Official Secrets Act/IPC.Government have taken several security measures and steps to tone up its intelligence network to check such nefarious activities and to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. Some of the steps taken in this regard include: deployment of additional Surveillance Teams in conjunction with IB to carry out checks; deployment of additional security troops for access control within the Defence Security Zone; deployment of electronic equipment to tone up security measures; security briefing to civilian Gazetted/non-Gazetted officers every month to apprise them of Departmental Security Instructions and to make them security conscious.Senior Officers of the Ministry/Service Headquarters/Inter Service Organisations have also been given briefing by IB officials on complete security scenario and preventive action to be taken. It is not in public interest to disclose further details.